

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**THE BATTLE IS ON!**

**The Reading Rocks! Teen Battle of the Bands contest entry deadline is Feb. 15**

Fort Myers, FL, Jan. 13, 2015 – Teen bands of all genres can now enter the Reading Rocks! Teen Battle of the Bands. The top three bands will perform live March 19 at the Southwest Florida Reading Festival. All bands are encouraged to upload an audio or video recording to YouTube and to provide the link and complete the entry form on the Reading Festival's Facebook page by the deadline of Feb. 15.

The contest is open to bands of two or more individuals who are residents of Lee, Charlotte, Collier and Hendry counties and are between the ages of 13 to 19 years old on the date of entry. Proof of age is required. The elimination round will be judged by a combination of judge's panel (60 percent) and online voting (40 percent). Online voting will be open from Feb. 17 to March 1. The final battle will be live at the Reading Festival. The judges will determine the first- and second-place winners and the Popular Choice Award will be determined by crowdsource voting at the close of the Battle.

The first-place prize includes an eight-hour studio recording session at Sonic Recording Studios, a professional photo from Laura Michele Photos and a feature article in Gulf Coast Times. The event is presented by the Lee County Library System and is intended to encourage involvement in reading and the arts among high school and middle school age students.

"This contest has been so popular that we are opening it up to the surrounding counties," Margie Byers, Festival coordinator said. "We are always wowed by the talent and variety of musical genres represented. We are again very excited about the Battle and the live performance opportunity this contest offers the teens in Southwest Florida." For more information, or to enter a band go to [www.ReadFest.org/BandBattle](http://www.ReadFest.org/BandBattle).

For more information about the Southwest Florida Reading Festival, call 239-479-4636 or visit [www.readfest.org](http://www.readfest.org). The Reading Festival is 100 percent community supported through generous donations, sponsorships and grants. To help ensure the continuation of this free community event visit [www.readfest.org](http://www.readfest.org) to make a secure online donation.

**ABOUT THE SOUTHWEST FLORIDA READING FESTIVAL**

Lee County Library System produces the Southwest Florida Reading Festival to inform the community about the resources and services available at their local Lee County libraries and to remind them these resources and services are free with a library card. The Reading Festival is free and serves all ages and a variety of cultures with presentations from best-selling authors. Some of the authors who have attended in the past include: Sue Monk Kidd, Susan Mallery, R.L. Stine, Janet Evanovich, Nelson DeMille, Erik Larson and several hundred more.

The Reading Festival's objectives are to promote reading and literacy; bring awareness of the library's programs and resources; foster partnerships between the Lee County Library System and the community. The Southwest Florida Reading Festival helps build a literate community and improve the local standard of living. The Southwest Florida Reading Festival helps children and teens to develop an interest in reading independently and therefore an increase in vocabulary and writing; increases family bonding and reading time; positively affects the attitude and behavior of families and the community regarding reading; develops a more educated and enriched community. For more information go to [www.ReadFest.org](http://www.ReadFest.org)

